MARVEL

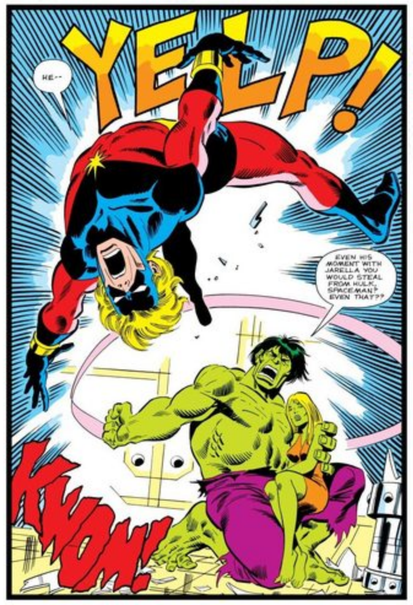
5

KNULL

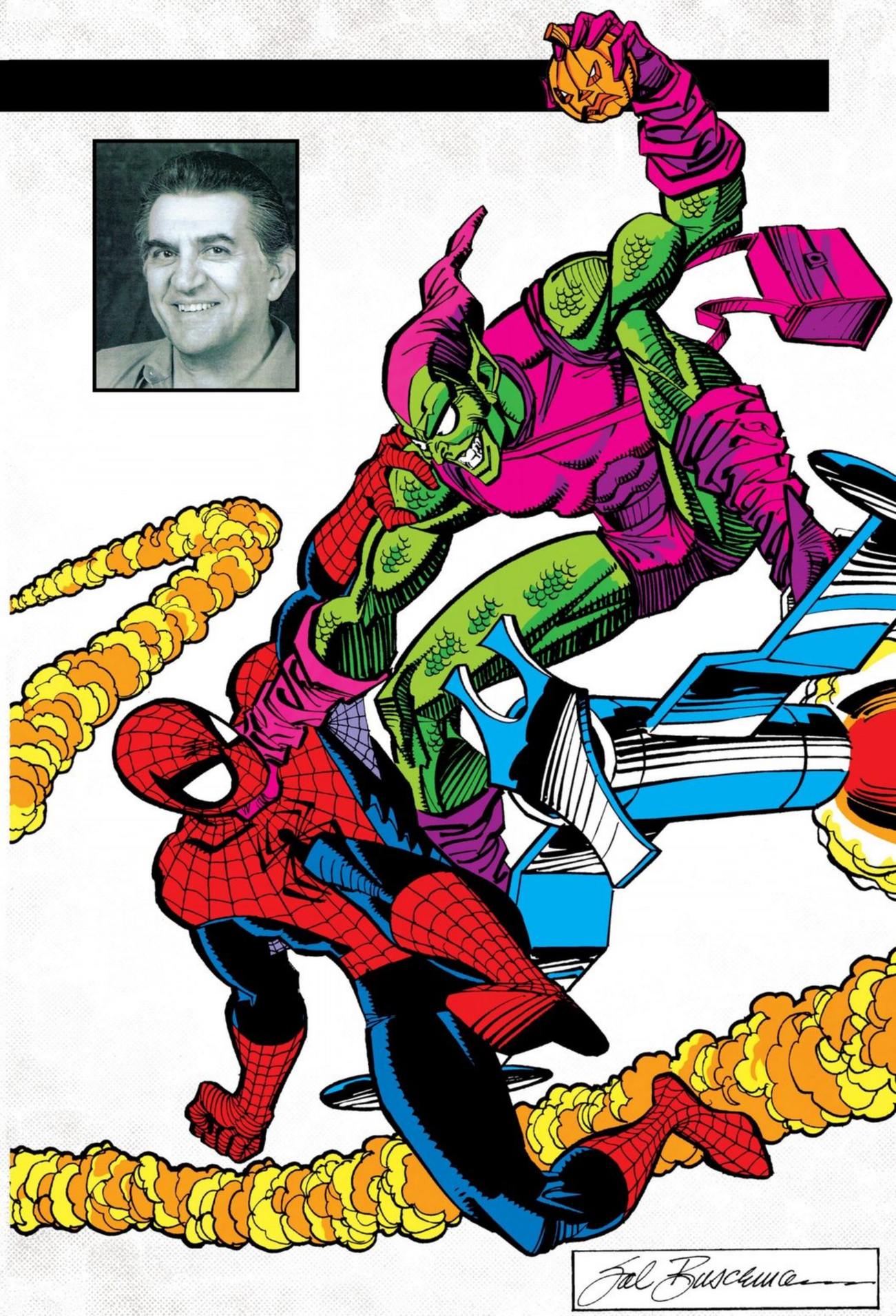
EWING
WALTZ
RAMÍREZ
ARCINIEGA

RATED T+

SAL BUSCEMA
1936-2026



Marvel pauses to remember Sal Buscema, a foundational Marvel artist since 1969. Buscema was a prolific penciler and inker, working on nearly every Marvel character. His clear, dynamic storytelling was a feature of long, historic runs on *Spectacular Spider-Man*, *Incredible Hulk* and *Rom*. Buscema was famed for drawing bombastic roundhouse punches that sent characters sprawling across the page, but he could also be capable of great subtlety and emotion in his character acting. "Our Pal Sal" will be missed by generations of Marvel fans.



KNULL

Behold **KNULL**...the **KING IN BLACK**, reduced to **HELA's** plaything--or is he? Knull believes he has outsmarted his captor: escaping Hela's dungeon, defeating **THANOS** and usurping him as king of the **OUTRIDERS**, emerging victoriously from a fight with an alternate **EDDIE BROCK** known as **THE ILLUMINATED**, and using the **SPEAR OF LIGHT** to harness the Illuminated's power to become a god of light himself. But Hela claims Knull's playing into her hands and has been watching his every move, enlisting **TYR** and Thanos to keep Knull within her clutches. Thanos may have lost one battle to Knull, but he's determined to win the next. Can Knull survive?

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DAEDALUS 5.

BEHOLD...THE QUEEN IN BLACK

SHE **SHOULD** BE HAPPY.

SHE POSSESSES THE **FULL EXTENT** OF KNULL'S VOID-POWERS. HIS CHILDREN--HIS **SYMBIOTES--** NOW SERVE **HER...**

...VIOLENTLY **SPREADING** HER WILL AND INFLUENCE **ACROSS** THE GALAXY.

HERS IS AN **IRON FIST** GLOVED IN **SHADOWY TENDRILS,** CRUSHING **ALL** WHO WOULD DARE STAND IN HER WAY.

HELA OF ASGARD REIGNS **SUPREME.**

AND YET, AS SHE SITS ATOP HER **REGAL THRONE,** CONTEMPLATING HER SWIFT RISE TO POWER, HAPPINESS **EVADES** HER.

THE CROWN WEIGHS **HEAVY.**

AND THE VICTORIES WON LEAVE HER FEELING **NAUGHT** BUT...

...EMPTY.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY, TYR ODINSON...

...TO TELL ME *WHERE* I WENT WRONG.

WRONG, YOUR HIGHNESS?

NAY...I WOULD *NEVER* USE SUCH A WORD TO DESCRIBE MY QUEEN.

YOU *MISUNDERSTAND*, GENERAL--I SEEK THE COUNSEL OF A *SEASONED WARRIOR*...

...*NOT* THE FALSE FLATTERY OF A *CRAVEN-TONGUED SYCOPHANT*.

YOU'VE *NOT* HESITATED AT INSINUATING PERCEIVED *DISCREPANCIES* IN MY PLAN PRIOR TO THIS--WHY START *NOW*?

SPEAK FREELY...

...OR BE *GONE* FROM MY SIGHT.

AS YOU *WISH*, MY LADY.

IN TRUTH, YOURS WAS A **SOUND STRATEGY.** YOU WERE **CORRECT** THAT THE SOLE PATH TO **OBTAINING** KNULL'S POWERS WAS VIA HIS WILLINGNESS TO **FULLY SACRIFICE** THE DARKNESS FOR THE LIGHT OF HIS **OWN** ACCORD.

ALLOWING HIM THE **MEANS** TO ESCAPE FROM HIS CAPTIVITY--KNOWING HE WOULD **SEEK** OUT THE **ALL-LIGHT** SPEAR TO COUNTER YOU--WAS A BRILLIANTLY **PRESCIENT TACTIC.**

AS WAS HERDING KNULL INTO *THANOS'* ALWAYS-DANGEROUS ORBIT.

THE **ONLY** DISCREPANCY IN YOUR PLAN, IF I MAY BE SO **BOLD,** IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THAT WHICH WE'VE **ALREADY** DISCUSSED: KNULL **HIMSELF.**

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, KNULL'S QUEST **SHOULD** HAVE LEFT HIM DEAD. BUT HE IS A MOST **TENACIOUS** COCKROACH--

--EASY ENOUGH TO **CORNER.** MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO **KILL.**

INDEED.

HE'S LOST THEM **ALL,** YOU KNOW-- HIS **DARK POWERS.** I NO LONGER **HEAR** HIM MEWLING WITHIN THE **HIVE MIND.**

HE HAS DISAPPEARED **COMPLETELY** FROM THE VOID...AND ONLY HIS CHILDREN-- **MY** CHILDREN-- REMAIN.

BUT ALTHOUGH I NO LONGER SENSE HIM **WITHIN,** HE YET **LIVES** OUT **THERE.**

I HAVE RECEIVED **WORD** FROM *THANOS,* TYR.

A **SECOND** CONFRONTATION WITH KNULL APPEARS **IMMINENT.**

AND **WITH** IT, I WONDER--A **SECOND DEFEAT?**

IF SO--

IF SO, LADY HELA, WE WILL BE READY TO WITHSTAND **WHATEVER** COMES NEXT. YOU SEEK **COUNSEL** FROM A SEASONED WARRIOR, AND YOU SHALL **HAVE** IT.

A GOOD GENERAL ALWAYS PLANS FOR BOTH **VICTORY** AND **DEFEAT.** AS SUCH, I HAVE PREPARED FOR YOU A **CONTINGENCY PLAN.**

A **NEW** COURSE OF ACTION...

"...SHOULD THE MAD TITAN *FAIL* ONCE AGAIN."

THE SANCTUARY V.
DEEP SPACE.

SO, VOID-CREATURE, I SEE YOU HAVE *RETURNED*... AND *NOT* AS A *SHADOW* OF YOUR FORMER SELF, I MIGHT ADD.

NO. SOMETHING FAR...*BRIGHTER.* SHINY *SPEAR* AND ALL.

AND ALL IT COST YOU WAS *EVERYTHING* YOU ONCE WERE.

YOU ARE *WRONG*, THANOS. THE *EXTERIOR* MAY HAVE CHANGED...BUT *INSIDE*, I BURN AS *DARKLY* AS EVER.

AND *YOU* WOULD KNOW ALL ABOUT *INSIDES*, WOULDN'T YOU, FALSE GOD?

HM. I ADMIT YOUR *TELEPORTATION ATTACK* CAUGHT ME *UNAWARES* IN OUR FIRST BATTLE--MY NEWLY ENHANCED ARMOR *ATTESTS* TO THAT.

BUT YOU ARE NOT THE *ONLY ONE* CAPABLE OF SURPRISES.

CAPTAIN LYN-KA...

...FIRE!

SO YOU WOULD STAND BY **COWARDLY** AND ALLOW YOUR **LACKEYS** TO FIGHT **FOR** YOU?

MY "LACKEYS" ARE BUT ANOTHER **WEAPON** TO BE UTILIZED IN BATTLE.

NO DIFFERENT THAN THE **POINTY STICK** YOU CARRY... OR THE **PLASMA MISSILES** YOU PARRY WITH IT.

NO DIFFERENT THAN...

...MY **FIST!**

FWASH

KRSSH

A WEAPON IS A WEAPON.

WHAT MATTERS ITS SOURCE?

WHAT MATTERS ITS FORM?

FZAKK

NO. ALL THAT TRULY MATTERS IS THE WILL TO USE IT...

HRNGG...

...AND THE DESTRUCTIVE RESULTS IT PROVIDES!

SNAP

HOW IS IT THE *EARTHLINGS* DESCRIBE IT?

AH YES.

ALL'S FAIR IN *LOVE*...

...AND *WAR*.

GRNF!

SHUNP

OH... THANOS...

...I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.

SHRPPP

GRAAGHH!

YOUR...YOUR NEW POWERS ARE...NNF... IMPRESSIVE.

NOT A SCRAP OF DARKNESS... HRNN...REMAINS.

WHERE'S YOUR VOID NOW...GOD OF THE VOID?

OH PLEASE.

SHUT UP.

TINK

HOW--?

YOU SHOULD'VE GONE FOR THE HEAD.

FZAKK

HYPOCRITICAL FRAUD!

YOU'VE GIVEN UP EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED JUST TO BECOME EVERYTHING YOU...

WHOOM

...HATE!

WRONG! I WANT NOTHING. ENDLESS NOTHING.

FOR ALL ETERNITY.

DO YOU THINK I CARE ABOUT THE COLOR? THAT MY VOID IS NOW WHITE AND SHINING?

FZAKK

OR THAT IT BURNS BRIGHTLY, FOREVER AND EVER...

...WITH NO LIFE TO DIM IT?

NO.

TO THAT I SAY...

...LET THERE BE LIGHT!

SHINE

WHUM

A VOID IS A VOID.

WHAT MATTERS ITS SOURCE?

GLRGGK... HRGG...

WHAT MATTERS ITS FORM?

SPLCH

FAREWELL, THANOS OF TITAN.

YOURS WAS A DOOMED CAUSE.

HRNN...

BUT POINTS FOR EFFORT.

"DEAD!"

THAT UTTER FOOL THANOS HAS FAILED ME *AGAIN!*

DEAD? ARE YOU *CERTAIN,* LADY HELA?

YOU DARE *QUESTION* ME, GENERAL?!

HAVE I MISJUDGED *YOUR* VALUE TO ME AS I DID THE IMBECILIC TITAN'S?

NAY, YOUR HIGHNESS. MY LOYALTY TO YOU IS *WITHOUT* QUESTION.

IT IS ONLY THAT...THANOS MAY BE EVEN *MORE* DIFFICULT TO KILL THAN KNULL.

APPARENTLY NOT.

AND NOW KNULL POSSESSES BOTH THE *ALL-LIGHT SPEAR* AND LIGHT POWERS *FULLY CONTRARY* TO MY DARK ONES.

IT SEEMS THE TIME HAS COME TO *ENACT* YOUR ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY, TYR.

AND WE MUST DO SO *QUICKLY...*

"...IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CHANCE AT *COUNTERING* KNULL'S *NEXT* MOVE."

AND SO, I HAVE *RETURNED*...

NAMELESS PLANET.

...JUST AS I *PROMISED*.

HE WHOM YOU ONCE CALLED *FATHER*--THANOS OF TITAN--IS *NO MORE*.

DESTROYED BY THE VERY SPEAR I NOW *HOLD* IN MY HANDS.

THE SAME SPEAR THAT *TRANSFORMS* YOU.

THE *LIGHT*!

IT *BURNS*!

YES-- THANOS IS *GONE*. YOU ARE *MY* CHILDREN NOW.

MY *DRAGONS*.

AND TOGETHER...

"...WE FLY."

WHY DOES THIS FEEL LIKE A COWARDLY RETREAT--

--THIS SO-CALLED CONTINGENCY PLAN OF YOURS, TYR?

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS, MY LADY. BUT DESPITE APPEARANCES, WE ARE NOT RETREATING--

--WE ARE REGROUPING.

THE DARK GAME YOU SET IN MOTION CONTINUES APACE--IT IS ONLY OUR POSITION ON THE PLAYING BOARD THAT CHANGES.

DAEDALUS 5 NO LONGER SUPPORTS A WINNING STRATEGY.

AND SO, WE LEAVE BEHIND WHAT WAS...TO VENTURE TOWARD WHAT WILL BE.

WELL, NOT COMPLETELY.

THANOS STOOD **OPPOSED** TO ME, IT'S TRUE. BUT HE WAS MERELY A **PAWN** IN **ANOTHER'S** GAME.

BEFORE **HELA**— BEFORE **THANOS.** BEFORE, EVEN, THE **EDDIE BROCK** WHO CALLED HIMSELF **ILLUMINATED...**

...THERE WERE **OTHERS** WHO STOOD AGAINST ME.

THE **ORIGINAL EDDIE BROCK** AND HIS **SUPER-POWERED ALLIES**—

—**THEY** ARE THE OTHERS I SEEK LONG OVERDUE **VENGEANCE** AGAINST NOW.

I WILL ANNIHILATE **THEM** FIRST.

COME, MY BRIGHT AND TERRIBLE LEGIONS...

"...WE'RE TAKING THE EARTH!"

"A MUCH MORE *EFFECTIVE* POWER BASE AWAITS US."

TO BE CONTINUED...IN *THE QUEEN IN BLACK!*

SPIDERS & SYMBIOTES

THE LOWE-DOWN

I'M BACK, WEB-HEADS!

Big thanks to Tom Groneman for stepping in last month! May is another huge month in Spider-Land! "DEATH SPIRAL" is over, but its effects are felt heavily in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #28 and VENOM #258! We also have our epilogue/Torment origin in ASM/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL—BODY COUNT, by CHARLES SOULE and KEV WALKER, that will scare your hair white! Does any of this pale to our launches? Only you can say when you pick up SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY, by DAN SLOTT and MARCUS TO (with MARCOS MARTIN!!!)!

If you thought this was a safe evergreen flashback, you'd be WRONG as it's as dangerous as they come with the most impactful Spider-Writer since Stan doing what he does best! And the aftershocks of the Ultimate Universe come home to the 616 when ULTIMATE WOLVERINE writer CHRIS CONDON and ULTIMATE BLACK PANTHER artist STEFANO CASELLI open the origin boxes in REBORN: ULTIMATE IMPACT!

Keep Thwippin',
Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor

THIS MONTH'S HOST

NAME: Dan Slott

TITLE: Spidey Scribe

WORKS ON: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY

WHO IS YOUR IRL SUPER HERO?

My Dad.

WHICH SPIDER-MAN VILLAIN DO YOU MOST RESONATE WITH?

J. Jonah Jameson! You keep on getting published, every day, no matter what!

You wanna see those pictures of Spider-Man! And you always seem to find new ways to torture Peter Parker!

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR YOUNGER SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

There will come a day when you make an art project with your older sisters. You'll be making collages with them by cutting up magazines and comics that you don't think you'll ever read again. Whatever you do, for the love of all that's holy, put those scissors DOWN! Do NOT pick up that copy of INCREDIBLE HULK #181! Little Danny Slott, LISTEN to me! DON'T DO IT! DON'T--NOOOOOOOO! (This was a thing. This actually happened. For real.)

NEED YOUR SPIDER-FIX WHILE YOU WAIT FOR NEXT ISSUE?

THWIP-LIST

- ❑ ALIEN: KING KILLER #2
- ❑ ALL-NEW SPIDER-GWEN: THE GHOST-SPIDER #10
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #28
- ❑ ASTONISHING MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN THE ART OF THWIP #1
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM: DEATH SPIRAL – BODY COUNT #1
- ❑ BLACK CAT #10
- ❑ KNULL #5
- ❑ SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY #1

- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #29
- ❑ PREDATOR: BLOODSHED #4
- ❑ REBORN: ULTIMATE IMPACT #1

- ❑ VENOM #258
- ❑ AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: SPIDER-VERSITY #2
- ❑ INFERNAL HULK #7
- ❑ PLANET OF THE APES VS. FANTASTIC FOUR #4

EMERALD BENSADOUN, **KAITLYN LINDTVEDT** & **KAEDEN McGAHEY** - Assistant Editors
MARTIN BIRO & **TOM GRONEMAN** - Associate Editors **JORDAN D. WHITE** - Senior Editor
NICK LOWE - Executive Editor

PANEL OF THE MONTH:

REBORN: ULTIMATE IMPACT #1
page 19, panel 3
art by STEFANO CASELLI

GAMMA CORNER

**IS HE SPIDER,
OR IS HE SYMBIOTE...
OR IS HE NEITHER?**

The Infernal Hulk continues his mission to retake the planet Earth in the name of the horrors of the world! This time, he heads north to take out his biggest target yet!

X MARKS THE SMASH!

Hulk sets his sights on the X-Men in their base in Alaska—but what exactly is he after? The master of magnetism, the eye-beam-emitting tactician, and the first daughter of Limbo all stand in his way…but can even the world's mightiest mutants hold him back, or will his sway over the monsters of the planet extend to mutantkind?

INFERNAL HULK #7
On sale 5/27

EDGE OF THE VARIANT-VERSE

We in the Spider-Office are no stranger to variants--we've got a Spider-Verse full of 'em. It's hard to narrow it down, but check out our favorite variant cover of the month.

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY #1
Variant Cover
by MARCOS MARTIN

NEXT

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